



# *Saving* TEXAS HISTORY

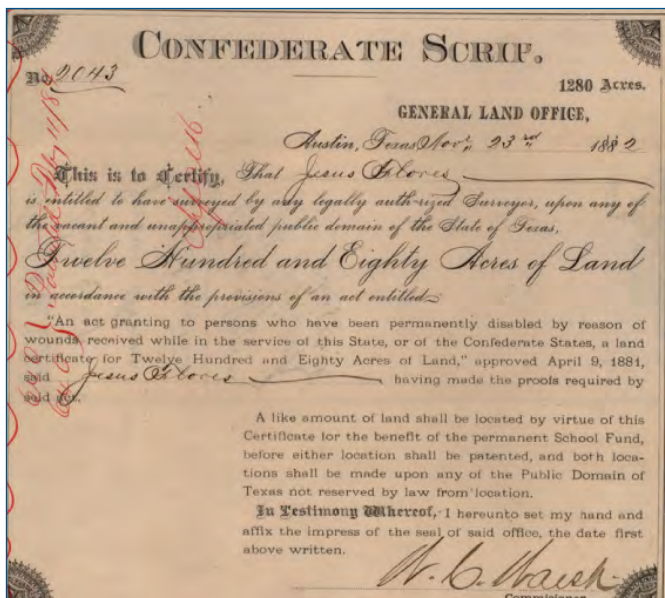
The Texas General Land Office  
Archives and Records Newsletter

*Jerry Patterson, Commissioner*

*Vol. 9 Number 2 \* Summer 2012*

## Confederate Scrip Vouchers at the Texas General Land Office

*by James Harkins*



*Confederate Scrip Certificate #2043 for Jesus Flores entitled the Tejano Confederate Veteran to 1280 acres, which he located in several smaller surveys in two different counties.*

**T**exas has always rewarded veterans with land. During the Texas Revolution, enlistment was bolstered by promises of land, which resulted in thousands of bounty and donation land certificates being issued to veterans as a reward for their service. In the 1940s, the Veterans Land Board was established, providing low-interest land loans to returning veterans of World War II, with expanded programs still existing today. Confederate veterans of Texas were also rewarded through the Confederate Scrip program at the Texas General Land Office from 1881-1883.

The Confederate Scrip Collection contains information about 2,068 Confederate Texan veterans,

*Continued inside ...*

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## THE 3RD ANNUAL SAVE TEXAS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM—THE CIVIL WAR IN TEXAS: DEATH, DISEASE AND MINIE BALLS

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## TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HELPS SAVE TEXAS HISTORY

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## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY: BATTLE REDUX

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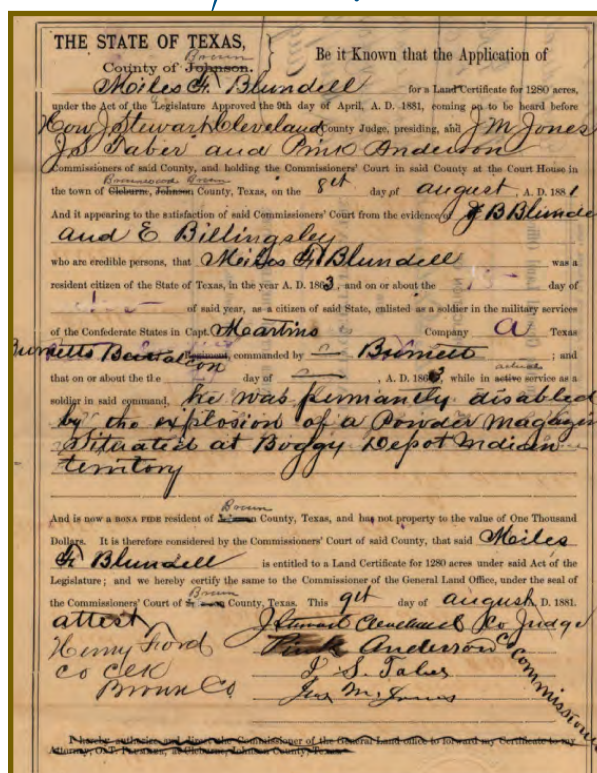
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*Confederate Scrip Voucher for Miles Blundell, who was permanently disabled by the explosion of a powder magazine at Boggy Depot in Indian Territory.*

Blundell, who was “Wounded from the explosion of a powder magazine while situated at Boggy Depot in Indian Territory,”<sup>2</sup> and W.P. Ridgeway, who “while on duty at Rancho Davis as a river guard...and while resisting the crossing of a party of Mexicans under Cortina was wounded by a shot to his chest.”<sup>3</sup>

Jesus Flores went before Falls County commissioners on June 3, 1882 to apply for a Confederate Scrip Voucher for 1,280 acres of land. Flores, who signed his name with an “X,” indicated that he enlisted at San Antonio in Captain H.G. Carter’s Company, and served from 1861-1864. “Said Company was attached to the Regiment of Col. Tom Green, and the Brigade of Genl. Sibley.” Flores explains in his application that he was shot while engaged in service at the Battle of Glorieta in New Mexico as a private, a battle that occurred in March 1862. Flores continued: “...Petitioner received a wound in the right wrist the ball ranged upward shattered the bone and cut the tendons and came out near the elbow which wound permanently disabled petitioner...”<sup>4</sup>

18 years after the “late war between the states of the United States.” Upon returning home, many veterans tried returning to the subsistence lifestyle prevalent within the largely agricultural-based economy of rural Texas. However, as is seen in these documents, thousands of men were unable to support their families because their bodies were damaged beyond repair. War widows also struggled to make ends meet.

This collection reveals the debilitating conditions endured by thousands of men across Texas. Men like Sam Larremore, who was “Shot in the left leg on July 22, 1863, and had it amputated at the Battle of Atlanta.”<sup>1</sup> Also featured within this collection are Miles

## Did You Know?

Confederate Texas veterans, like other Confederate veterans, were not eligible for any federal pensions after the Civil War.

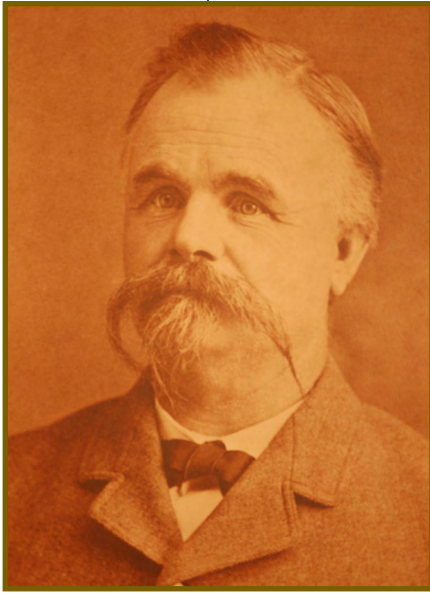
For the Confederate states, rewarding veterans ended up being an issue they were left to handle.

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*Land Commissioner and Confederate veteran William C. Walsh administered the Confederate Land Scrip Program between 1881-1883.*

Also prominently featured within this collection are hundreds of widows who lost their husbands during the war. One of these was Sarah Williams, who in November 1881 went before the Commissioners Court of Jackson County to apply for a land certificate in the name of her deceased husband, Joshua Williams. Her husband was

captured by federal troops and placed in a New Orleans prison, where he eventually died on December 4, 1863.<sup>5</sup>

These documents show that Texans fought in many areas of the United States and along the Texas frontier and southern border to defend the Confederate State of Texas. Almost everywhere Texans saw conflict during the war is documented within the Confederate Scrip Vouchers, offering new insights on the war.

### **The Legislative Process and Stipulations for the Confederate Scrip Program**

On March 9, 1881, Senator S.B. Cooper introduced Texas Senate Bill No. 258 entitled, "An Act granting to persons who have been permanently disabled by reason of wounds received while in the service of the State, or of the Confederate States, a land certificate for 1280 acres of land."<sup>6</sup> This act was created to give land to indigent veterans. When questioned in committee, Senator Cooper said that he could see no reason why the soldiers "who came back from the war with mangled forms and fortunes gone should not have this aid."<sup>7</sup>

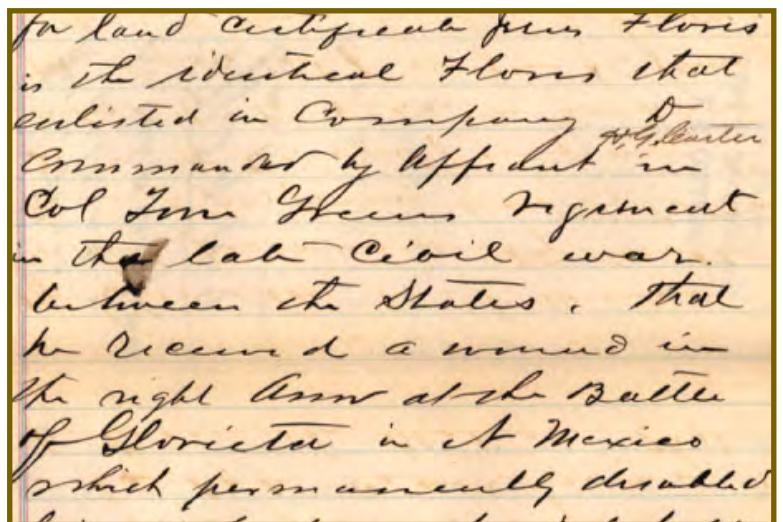
Most senators supported the bill because they wanted to reward veterans. Others, like Senator W. K. Homan believed "the sooner the public domain was gone the better for the State." Homan considered it "far better to give it to those who became disabled while battling for a cause they conceived to be just than to let it be consumed by soulless corporations."

## **Did You Know?**

On August 21, 1868, the Reconstruction government in Texas declared that bounty land donations would be made available to Union soldiers.

Union veterans were eligible for 80 to 320 acres, depending on how long they were in service.

Several studies of the Land Office files have concluded that no Union veteran ever took advantage of the bounty land program in Texas.



*From the Confederate Scrip Voucher for Jesus Flores, indicating that he served in Tom Green's Regiment, and was injured in battle at Glorieta in New Mexico.*

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After much debate,<sup>8</sup> much of which focused on respecting the veterans' pride,<sup>9</sup> the act was signed into law by the governor on April 9, 1881. There were three principal provisions of the bill:

- A 1,280-acre land certificate was to be given to Confederate soldiers from Texas who suffered disabling wounds, to servants of such soldiers, and to widows whose husbands had been killed or had died while in actual service, had not remarried, and were citizens of Texas.
- The applicant was required to appear before the county court in the county of residence, and supported by two creditable witnesses, to establish his or her eligibility.
- An alternate survey was required for the Permanent School Fund.<sup>10</sup>

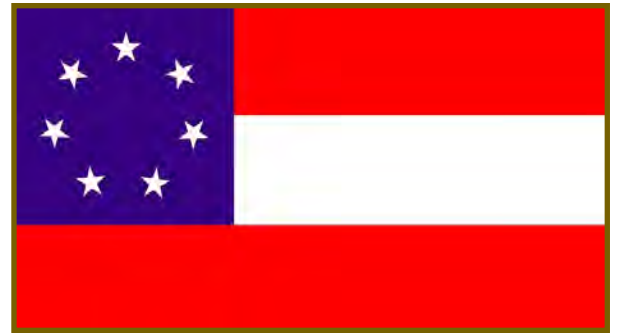
### *A Small Window of Opportunity*

Of the 90,000 Texans serving the Confederacy, only 2,068 took advantage of the program, less than 3 percent of all Confederate Texas veterans. The short-lived program, which took effect on July 9, 1881, lasted through February 16, 1883. Land Commissioner William C. Walsh, a Confederate veteran, issued 1,434 certificates, or 70 percent of all certificates issued, to surviving veterans. Walsh issued another 634 certificates, or 30 percent, to surviving widows. Of all the certificates, 1,726 were located for just short of 1.97 million acres.<sup>11</sup>

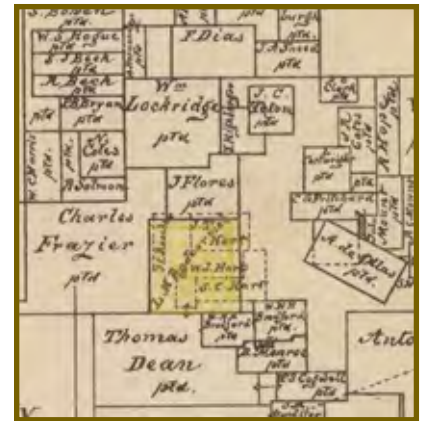
The Senate Committee on Public Lands recommended that the program be repealed because there wasn't enough public land for all the unlocated land certificates issued by the state. The bill was sent to Governor John Ireland on February 2, 1883 but received no action, becoming law without his signature. In an affidavit dated September 7, 1895, Land Commissioner Andrew J. Baker stated that Confederate Scrip Certificate #2068, issued to W.J. Johnson on February 16, 1883, was the last valid Confederate scrip certificate.<sup>12</sup>



*Johnson's New Military Map of the United States shows the forts, military posts, etc., in the United States. The men who fought for Texas on behalf of the Confederacy saw action in many states and territories during the Civil War.*



*The first Confederate flag flown in Texas was the South's national emblem, "The Stars and Bars" of the Confederate States of America.*



*Jesus Flores located 320 acres in Wise County, as seen in this detailed section of the 1871 map of Wise County.*

During the legislative process leading up to the program, Senator Wurzbach argued that Confederate veterans should be compensated, arguing, "We have given millions of acres to railroads, irrigation and ditch companies, and I can see no reason why we should keep the small balance for them. We might as well give it to those deserving persons." For two years, the program rewarded Confederate veterans and their widows. Senator Wurzbach, while making the case for issuing land scrip to Confederate veterans in 1881, identified the

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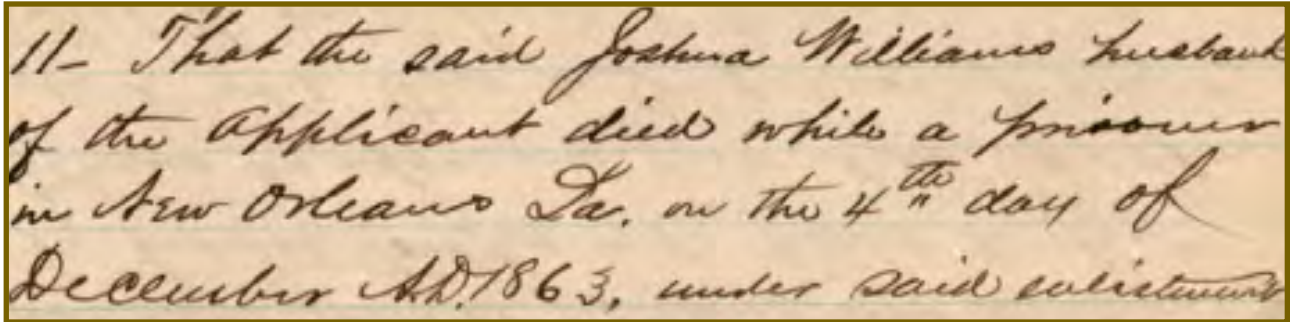
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land policy that would end up killing the program two years later—issuing millions of acres to railroads for internal improvements. In 1883, the last state program rewarding Texas veterans with land was dead because the Legislature feared the state's commitment to railroads exceeded available lands.

The Confederate Scrip Vouchers at the Land Office offer insight into conditions in Texas after the Civil War for thousands of Civil War veterans. To learn more about this collection, please visit the Archives and Records of the Texas General Land Office or go to [www.glo.texas.gov](http://www.glo.texas.gov). ✱



11- That the said Joshua Williams husband of the Applicant died while a prisoner in New Orleans La. on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1863, under said enlistment

*The Confederate Scrip Voucher for Sarah Williams, on behalf of her deceased husband, Joshua Williams.*

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Confederate Scrip Voucher for Sam Larremore. August 8, 1881. Confederate Scrip Voucher #844, P. 3. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin. [hereafter TGLO].
- <sup>2</sup> Confederate Scrip Voucher for Miles Blundell. August 9, 1881. Confederate Scrip Voucher #435, P. 1. TGLO.
- <sup>3</sup> Confederate Scrip Voucher for W.P. Ridgeway. June 6, 1881. Confederate Scrip Voucher #151, P. 1. TGLO.
- <sup>4</sup> Confederate Scrip Voucher for Jesus Flores. June 3, 1882. Confederate Scrip Voucher #2043, Pp. 3-4. TGLO.
- <sup>5</sup> Confederate Scrip Voucher for Sarah Williams. June 6, 1881. Confederate Scrip Voucher #1256, P. 1. TGLO.
- <sup>6</sup> Senate Bill #258, 17th Legislature. Adopted March 31, 1881. Call #100-1713. Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin.
- <sup>7</sup> Miscellaneous Matters – Granting Land to Confederate Soldiers, Etc. Galveston Daily News, March 30, 1881.
- <sup>8</sup> Galveston Daily News, March 30, 1881.
- <sup>9</sup> Senator Chenoweth opposed the requirement in the bill that required veterans to declare themselves indigent. Other senators said it was necessary for veterans to make the declaration, otherwise there would be no justification for providing the land donation. Eventually, Senator Chenoweth's provision was killed, and the stipulation of admitting indigence was required.
- <sup>10</sup> Senate Bill #258, abid.
- <sup>11</sup> Thomas Lloyd Miller. Texas Land Grants to Confederate Veterans and Widows. The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. 69, No. 1, (July 1965), Pp. 59-60.
- <sup>12</sup> General Land Office, Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, September 1, 1896, in Reports of the Commissioner, 1888 to 1952, P. 5. TGLO.

## Tell Us About Your Experience at the Land Office Archives

**H**ave you had a good experience with the Texas General Land Office Archives? Maybe you learned something that you never knew about Texas history. Perhaps you discovered a document that shed new light on one of your ancestors.

Please “Like” Save Texas History on Facebook, and share your experience with us. Or, if you are not on Facebook, please email [archives@glo.texas.gov](mailto:archives@glo.texas.gov) with details about your experience at the Archives.

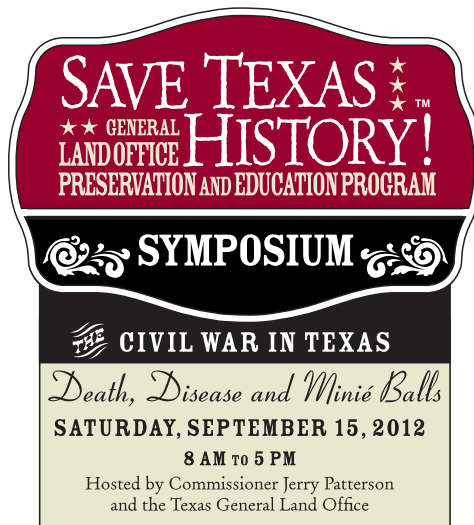
The best story about an experience involving the Archives will appear in the next edition of Saving Texas History and will win a free map for the writer!

We also invite you to participate in our Online Survey. [Click here](http://www.savetexashistory.org) or visit our website at [savetexashistory.org](http://www.savetexashistory.org). By completing this survey, your name will be entered in a drawing for a Land Office map reproduction of your choice. ✱

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# The 3rd Annual Save Texas History Symposium

## *The Civil War in Texas: Death, Disease and Minié Balls*



The Third Annual Save Texas History Symposium is approaching. On Saturday, September 15, the Texas General Land Office will remember the Civil War in Texas at the Thompson Conference Center on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. This will be an event to remember, as it promises to be the biggest Save Texas History Symposium yet!

“‘The Civil War in Texas: Death, Disease and Minié Balls’ is an apt title for this year’s symposium,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “It refers to a line from a May 23, 1864 Civil War letter—found in the Land Office Archives—from Col. Dudley H. Ward to his father, former Land Commissioner Thomas William Ward. Texas during the Civil War was a rough place. Disease was wiping out large chunks of the population, just as minié balls were killing thousands of Texans across our land. This title reflects the conditions on the ground and what a difficult period

in our nation’s history this was.”

Morning plenary speakers include Dr. Rick McCaslin, from the University of North Texas, who will discuss Texas and Texans during the Civil War. Dr. Don Frazier, from McMurry University in Abilene, will then discuss Union plans for Texas, followed by Ed Cotham, an author from Houston, who will discuss the Civil War struggle for Galveston.

In the afternoon, a panel discussion focusing on Tejanos and the Civil War will feature Dr. Jerry Thompson, from Texas A&M – International University, and Dr. Alexander Mendoza, from the University of North Texas. Additionally, Dr. Robert Maberry from McMurry University will discuss Civil War battle flags.

“General Land Office staff work hard to put on an excellent event every year,” Patterson said. “This year, I’m excited to see all of the great speakers we have lined up. The three morning speakers, Dr. McCaslin, Dr. Frazier and Mr. Cotham, along with Dr. Maberry, Dr. Thompson and Dr. Mendoza, are among the most respected Civil War historians today, and I am honored that they agreed to share their knowledge with guests of the General Land Office Save Texas History program.”

### SYMPOSIUM AT A GLANCE

#### WHEN

Saturday, September 15, 8 am – 5 pm

#### WHERE

The Thompson Conference Center  
2405 East Campus Drive  
Austin, Texas 78712

#### REGISTRATION COST

\$50 — Symposium Registration  
\$55 — Symposium Registration & Box Lunch  
\$60 — Late Registration (After September 10,  
does not include box lunch.)

REGISTER ONLINE  
[savetexashistory.org](http://savetexashistory.org)

The afternoon will also feature a four-part genealogy workshop, featuring Sue Kaufman, President of the Texas State Genealogical Society and Director of the Clayton Library in Houston, as well as Donaly Brice, an expert on Civil War records at the Texas State Library. Kevin Klaus will discuss genealogical resources at the Land Office, and Charles Gardes will discuss genealogical resources and practices to find out “what grandpa really did during the Civil War.”

Tours of the General Land Office Archives will again be available for symposium attendees. Patrons will receive a guided tour of the state-of-the-art archival facilities from knowledgeable Land Office staff members, along with a tour of the historic documents and maps housed at the agency. There will also be an educational workshop for Texas history educators focusing on the use of primary source

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materials in the classroom, which will give educators eight CPE credits from the Texas Education Agency.

Symposium attendees will also have the opportunity, for the third year in a row, to conduct a pioneer land survey, using antique equipment that was used more than 100 years ago.

**TO REGISTER, CONTACT**

**JAMES HARKINS**

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**OR**

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**REGISTER ONLINE**

SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG

**EXHIBITOR AND SPONSOR  
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**ADRIAN LOUCKS**

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adrian.loucks@glo.texas.gov

The survey will be guided by Director of Surveying for the Land Office, Bill O'Hara, on the campus of the University of Texas.

The Land Office is also partnering

with the Texas State Cemetery to offer a tour of its historic grounds. Symposium attendees will have the opportunity to tour the final resting place of soldiers, governors, senators, legislators, congressmen, judges and other legendary Texans who made the state what it is today.

Throughout the day vendors and exhibitors will be available, selling books and other items related to Texas history. Symposium attendees will also have the opportunity to meet and greet speakers, and have books autographed. ✱



*Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson speaks at last year's Save Texas History Symposium.*

## Thanks to our Symposium Sponsors



**The Summerlee Foundation, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History,  
The Pearce Museum and Texas Society of Professional Surveyors.**

*sponsor listing as of July 31, 2012*

## Texas State Genealogical Society Helps Save Texas History

*by James Harkins*

**T**he Texas General Land Office thanks the Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) for two generous donations—totaling \$40,000—for the conservation and scanning of more than 8,000 documents in the County and District Clerk Return Collection. Under the leadership of President Marynell A. Bryant, the TSGS identified these documents as being of significant genealogical importance, and in need of conservation. The TSGS has helped Save Texas History, and in the process, helped conserve the memory of thousands of pioneers who led the way to Texas.

Prior to 2009, the Land Office conserved County Clerk Returns for counties in alphabetical order, completing counties starting with A-G. In 2009, former TSGS President Marynell Bryant realized the value of conserving those initial records, and having them scanned and made available online. Bryant and the TSGS Board decided that TSGS should lead the way in conserving the next 15 counties of Clerk Returns, and donated \$20,000 for the project, resulting in

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<i>Applicant's Name</i>	<i>Quantity of Land</i>	<i>Time of Emigration</i>
<i>A. M. Hallmark</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>1854</i>
<i>A. M. Hallmark</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>1854</i>
<i>Samuel Chavis</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>1852</i>
<i>Geo. W. Hallmark</i>	<i>one labor</i>	<i>1854</i>
<i>Samy Miller</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>Daniel Parker</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>W. Martin Pruitt</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>Stephen White</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>January 1856</i>
<i>Levi White</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>January 1856</i>
<i>Thomas Boccia</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>Stephen Bennett</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>James Lansing</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>W. Martin Pruitt</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>Wiley Bennett</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>Daniel Parker</i>	<i>one labor</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>Dickson Parker</i>	<i>three quarters of a league</i>	<i>Nov- 1855</i>
<i>Richard Eaton</i>	<i>one labor</i>	<i>Nov- 1855</i>
<i>Benjamin Parker</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>Nov- 1855</i>
<i>John Denison</i>	<i>one third of a league</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>Dickson Parker</i>	<i>three hundred land</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>John Parker</i>	<i>one labor</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>Stephen Parker</i>	<i>one labor</i>	<i>November 1855</i>
<i>W. Martin Pruitt</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>Levi Pruitt</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>John Anglin</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>John G. Callison</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>W. Martin Pruitt</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>1855</i>
<i>Luther Smith</i>	<i>one league and labor</i>	<i>1855</i>

*Houston County Clerk Return #1 features land grant applicant names, the quantity of land, and the date of the applicant's emigration. This is one of the documents that was conserved thanks to the Texas State Genealogical Society.*

more than 1,000 documents being conserved. In 2010, former President Nancy Brennan and the TSGS Board continued the project, donating an additional \$20,000. These two donations coincide perfectly with the goals of the Save Texas History program, which was created to develop corporate and private partnerships to conserve historical Texas documents and maps. Because the Land Office receives no money for conservation from the Legislature, partnerships like this are necessary to save our history.

The Save Texas History program was designed with groups like the Texas State Genealogical Society in mind. The purpose of TSGS is to promote, assist, develop, and conserve the genealogical and historical resources of Texas and to cooperate with local, regional and statewide groups in promoting the need to preserve family heritage.

"The Texas State Genealogical Society is pleased to support the preservation and digitization of the Texas County Clerk Returns," said Sue Kaufman, President of the Texas State Genealogical Society. "Since 2009, TSGS has provided \$40,000 of funding to this important project. These records, housed within the Archives and Records of the Texas General Land Office, are a very important record group of Texas history. The 18 counties al-

ready preserved offer names of thousands of early pioneer settlers to Texas applying for headright grants to County Land Commissioners."

"I believe this County Clerk Return project is one that benefits those doing Texas state history and genealogy currently and in the future. The Society is pleased to be a partner with the GLO," Kaufman said.

The Clerk Returns Collection at the Land Office is among the richest resources for genealogical research in the state. Due to the deteriorated state of these documents, they were one of the least accessed collections in the Land Office Archives for many years.

These documents are reports of headright certificates issued by county Boards of Land Commissioners and District Courts from 1836 to 1855 and filed with the Land Office. The reports, called Clerk Returns, had to be filed with the Land Office on a quarterly basis by the county clerks and district clerks. Each report lists the quarter and the dates for filing. Typical information found in these returns includes the numbers assigned to the conditional and unconditional certificates, the name of the person to whom the headright certificate was issued, the county where the conditional certificate was issued, quantity of land granted in acres, names of witnesses, and the date an unconditional certificate was issued. Some returns include immigration dates and marital status of recipients of certificates as well.

"By choosing to conserve the County Clerk Returns, the Texas State Genealogical Society has drawn a line in the sand

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and stood its ground,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “I appreciate the continued support of TSGS and its members, as the Land Office has proven to be a useful destination for genealogical research for those with a rich Texas ancestry.”

Through the years, many of these documents were “repaired” by untrained but well-intentioned Land Office staff members. Common repair techniques included the use of unstable and destructive adhesives like Scotch tape and lacquer. Additionally, more than 300 documents were damaged by the iron gall ink used to write on them. Others were stained, discolored, torn and/or creased to varying degrees.

Due to the deteriorated state of these documents, they were for all practical purposes inaccessible to the public. But thanks to the Texas State Genealogical Society and its generous donations, many of these records are now viewable online and available to the public in the Research Room of the Archives. ✨

## A Word from the Public

I moved to Austin as a child, graduated from The University of Texas, and lived in the area between 1956 and 2005 on three occasions after I married. I knew “of” the Land Office but never really focused on its importance.

Before my family moved to Austin in 1945, we had lived for three years in Elgin during World War II. Unbeknownst to us, we lived less than five miles from where the Standifers, my mother’s family, were buried and had run a store!

In 2004, shortly after being “bitten” by the genealogy bug, I discovered that my Standifer ancestors had come to Texas in the early 1830s in a fascinating way. Anderson Standifer, who was living in what was known as the American Bottom area of Illinois, applied for one of Stephen F. Austin’s land grants and was granted land either just before or just after his untimely death. His wife, Elizabeth James Standifer, accompanied by her young children (one a babe in arms), drove an ox-drawn wagon from Illinois first to Tennessee and finally to Texas to claim the land, which was part of Austin’s Second Colony near the settlement of Hogeys—near what is now Elgin in Bastrop County. The young widow settled the land and shared the land grant with her elder sons. One of her sons survived the infamous attack by Comanches near what became the old Austin Airport. Many of the family were buried at Bastrop County Young Cemetery, and others moved on to Burnet County.

When I learned of the Standifer family’s fascinating history, I went to the Land Office to see if they had any records, only to find not only three but four people anxious to help me and to print off the records for me—including a map of Elizabeth Standifer’s original grants beautifully written in Spanish. These remain among my prized possessions.

Without the help of the Land Office, so much of this history would have not been known to me. Instead I have wonderful copies of all the family early history in Texas. I’ve thanked them in my mind many times for their willing assistance and help.

Cerise Blair  
Denton County Historical Association

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## Do you “like” Texas history?

**L**ove Texas history? Then “like” the new Save Texas History Facebook page! Get the latest news about the Texas General Land Office conservation and education program, including upcoming events, contests, media and Texas history trivia.

Watch for opportunities to win maps and other Save Texas History collectibles. Give STH a thumbs up to be entered in STH drawings. Keep up with your Save Texas History friends today! ✨



## To Request a Speaker

to discuss Land Office genealogical resources with your group or society, please call 512.463.5277, or email [archives@glo.texas.gov](mailto:archives@glo.texas.gov).

## To Schedule Tours

please call 512.463.5277, or visit us online at [savetexashistory.org](http://savetexashistory.org).

*While anyone who walks in is welcome to tour the Archives, it's best to schedule in advance. With prior notice, tours can be tailored to specific interests. Due to the size of the rooms, groups of 20 or less offer the best tour experience.*

## BATTLE REDUX

JUNE 1864, SAME BATTLEFIELD, DIFFERENT WAR.

This week in Texas History, brought to you by this station and the Save Texas History program of the General Land Office.

June 25, 1864. Brownsville. Union forces occupy the town. Ready to take it back, Confederate Colonel “Rip” Ford gets word that the federals are heading out.

Finding Union troops in Las Rusias, near the Rio Grande, Ford attacks. Mexican-born Captain Refugio Benavides and his cavalry hit the Union flank hard. Outnumbered, the federals flee—some across the river to Mexico.

Ironically, U.S. troops were attacked here before—eighteen years ago, this time by Mexican troops under Santa Anna. The battle led to the Mexican War.

The second battle of Las Rusias happened 148 years ago, This Week in Texas History.



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